National Convention of Economists held in Delhi

*312. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:
SHRI O. J. JOSEPH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a national convention of economists and social scientists was held in Delhi on August 31 and September 1, 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the convention spelt out an alternative economic strategy for sustained growth of the economy with stability; and

(c) what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Members are presumably referring to the two-day meeting of some economists in Delhi on "Current Economic Policies and Alternatives" on 31st August and 1st September, 1985. According to Newspaper reports, the Plan worked out by the economists calls *inter alia*, for setting up an annual fund to be utilised for employment generation through development programmes. The suggestions to raise the fund include direct taxation of the rural rich and mopping up of a part of the black money through taxes.

Government is guided by the policy framework in the Five Year Plans. The National Development Council at its recent meeting has approved the strategy of economic development in the Seventh Five Year Plan 1985—1990. The Seventh Plan document was placed on the Table of both Houses of Parliament on 4th December, 1985.

Export of Wheat

*313. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of wheat was exported during the year 1984-85 and upto 31st October, 1985;

(b) what are the countries to which it was exported and at what rate;

(c) whether it is a fact that some quantity of wheat exported was found substandard and was rejected by the importing countries; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) 32,412 M.T. wheat was exported during 1984-85. Wheat exports during April—October, 1985 were of the order of 2,83,144 M.T.

(b) wheat has been exported to USSR, to drought affected African countries; and to Vietnam. Exports to African countries were as gift and to Vietnam as commodity loan. Exports to USSR took place at the then prevailing international prices.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Bumper Tea Crop

*314. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a bumper tea crop is expected this year; and

(b) what fresh efforts have been made to popularise Indian tea in foreign markets?